



EVENTS

'The Crockin' Girls' to give talk at Abilene Library

Contributed photo Nicole Sparks (left) and Jenna Marwitz, both of Early, are The Crockin' Girls. They promote slow cooking on their Facebook page and in two cookbooks. Their newest edition,

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Nicole Sparks (left) and Jenna Marwitz, both of Early, are The Crockin' Girls. They promote slow cooking on their Facebook page and in two cookbooks. Their newest edition, "It's Our Crockin' Life," was released in early August 2015.

By Loretta Fulton, Special to the Reporter-News

Posted: Yesterday 8:13 p.m.

Nicole Sparks and Jenna Marwitz are stepping back from their hectic book signing tour to spend some time at the Abilene Public Library.

They will be guest speakers for the final Texas Author Series presentation of 2016. Their program will begin at noon Monday. Admission is free. An optional \$5 lunch will be served at 11:45 a.m. This is one lunch no one will want to miss.

Sparks and Marwitz, better known as "The Crockin' Girls," will talk about their highly successful cookbooks, filled with recipes for slow cookers. Monday's lunch will be dishes made from some of those recipes.

Monday's presentation will follow three weekend book signings in Dallas and Austin. And, those signings will be on the heels of many others that the two Early residents have done since "It's Our Crockin'

Life" came out last fall.

"It keeps us busy, that's for sure," Sparks said in a telephone interview.

The cookbook followed the original, "The Crockin' Girls' Slow Cookin' Companion," which was published in 2012. The business actually started with a Facebook page in 2011, with the two longtime friends sharing their favorite slow cooker recipes.

Now, they are all over social media and have two successful cookbooks to their name, something they never envisioned.

"We never intended it to be a business," Sparks said, but demand was so great that they changed their minds.

Today, the two women cook for their own families as well as sharing recipes with others. Sparks and her husband have two children, ages 9 and 6. Marwitz and her husband are the parents of two children, ages 6 and 4.

Both women have a "go-to" recipe among the dozens featured in their cookbooks. For Sparks, it's French dip sandwiches. For Marwitz, it's the shredded pork loin.

One question the two women almost always get asked is whether they ever eat anything other than one of their slow cooker recipes. Sparks assured that despite all their success and unexpected fame, the two women, and their families, are just like everybody else.

"We do order pizza," she said.

IF YOU GO:

What: Texas Author Series featuring Nicole Sparks and Jenna Marwitz of Early, "The Crockin' Girls"

When: Lunch at 11:45 a.m., program at noon, Monday

Where: Abilene Public Library, 202 Cedar St., second floor
auditorium

Admission: Free; optional lunch, \$5, or bring your own. Recipes from
the books will be served.

More information: www.crockingirls.com

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